

The 2003 Environmental Action Agenda Progress Report



"We are privileged to live in such a beautiful, healthy place, and it's our shared responsibility to preserve this legacy. Protecting the environment helps build strong, healthy communities."

- Mayor Greg Nickels

The **Environmental Action Agenda** lays out the City's goals and actions for protecting and restoring our urban environment, and making City government more environmentally responsible. This progress report is not an exhaustive list, but a sampling of our accomplishments over the last year and next steps for 2004. This is a mid-cycle report; next year we will provide a complete update on our progress as measured by established indicators.

CREATE HEALTHY URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

We will improve Seattle's quality of life, protect and restore the environment and enhance neighborhood livability.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Increased Seattle's green spaces and restored urban creeks

- Acquired over 30 acres for new parks and open spaces
- Constructed five new P-Patch community gardens
- Restored 150 feet of Thornton Creek to make it healthier for fish and wildlife

Enhanced neighborhood livability

- 1,500 volunteers cleaned up 12 neighborhoods collecting more than 8 tons of litter
- Engaged the public and project stakeholders to identify opportunities to improve the environment (e.g. adding habitat, reducing pavement) during the waterfront redevelopment
- Promoted Natural Yard Care to Kiwanis Ravine and Fauntleroy neighborhoods

Improved air quality and locally reduced greenhouse gas emissions

- Reduced vehicle idling and Fremont and Ballard Bridges with 13% more cars turning off their engines
- Reduced green house gas emissions through City Light funded projects

NEXT STEPS

- Complete five additional P-Patch community gardens
- Complete construction of a natural drainage project in the Broadview neighborhood
- Place approximately 200 logs in Fauntleroy Creek to help slow erosion and increase wildlife habitat
- Launch new initiative to restore and improve water quality and habitat conditions in Seattle's creeks, lake, shorelines and other waterways
- Add new parks to the Pesticide Free Parks program
- Launch the Green Seattle Initiative to restore Seattle's urban forests and increase the green in Seattle's neighborhoods, streets and buildings
- Evaluate zoning changes to allow housing in all zones within South Lake Union
- Incorporate sustainable features into Cascade and South Lake Union parks
- Work with developers to promote green building and innovative stormwater strategies at Northgate

PROMOTE SMART MOBILITY

We will improve mobility by promoting transportation choices that make our neighborhoods safer and healthier.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Enhanced public safety and encouraged walking and biking

- Completed 60 neighborhood projects to improve pedestrian access, reduce traffic, improve streetscapes, and repair crosswalks, sidewalks, pavement and signs
- Installed 28 landscaped traffic circles replacing existing pavement with green space
- Created a strategy to improve access and better integrate transit, bicycle and pedestrian networks within Seattle's city center

Encouraged people to drive less

- Completed five community-initiated projects to reduce driving
- Decreased single occupant vehicle trips by 22% and increased transit use by 125% for households participating in the "One Less Car" study

Improved transportation choices

- Sound Transit broke ground on the Central Link light rail project
- Improved access to businesses and increased transit service along a section of Aurora Avenue North



NEXT STEPS

- Begin Aurora Avenue North Bus Rapid Transit construction
- Optimize another 150 traffic signals to improve traffic flow
- Start construction of a lane on a section of Lake City Way to improve access to businesses
- Work with Metro to identify service improvements in SE and SW Seattle
- Replace the majority of the City's 9,000 parking meters with 1,600 convenient pay stations
- Partner with business organizations to reduce commute trips in three neighborhoods
- Pursue grant opportunities to create a comprehensive campaign to encourage residents to seek alternatives to the car to get around the city

ENCOURAGE STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES

We will encourage residents, businesses and other institutions to use resources more efficiently and adopt environmentally responsible practices.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Increased water and energy efficiency

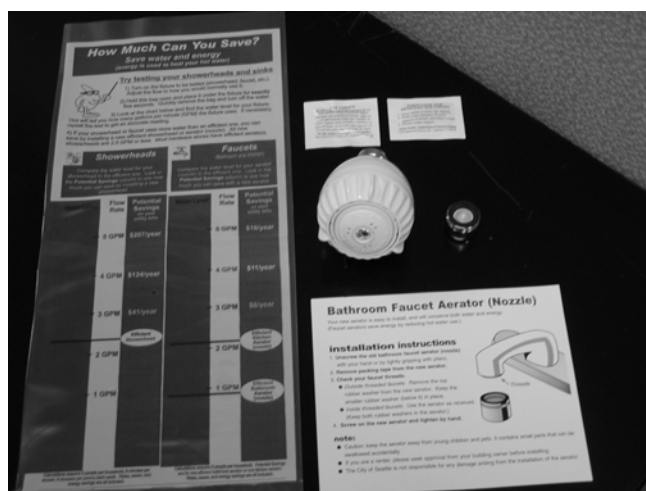
- Installed solar energy at Ballard High School, Carkeek Park Environmental Learning Center, Bradner Gardens and the Woodland Park Zoo.
- Implemented energy conservation projects that save customers \$300,000 in annual energy costs in South Lake Union
- Distributed 11,900 compact fluorescent lamps, conducted 189 energy and water audits for residential customers through the Ballard Neighborhood Project
- Saved 29,200,000 gallons of water per year at the University of Washington, the equivalent use of over 800 Seattlites
- Installed 10,000 water conservation retrofits, including toilet, showerhead and faucet aerator replacements, in low income housing units

Promoted recycling and reduced waste

- Launched program to achieve 60% recycling
- Diverted 1,900 cubic yards of materials from the waste stream and recycled 60 tons of metal at 6 waste exchange neighborhood events

NEXT STEPS

- Install solar power at Washington Middle School, McCaw Performance Hall and 6 additional sites
- Conduct waste exchange events at 9 neighborhoods and at the University of Washington and Seattle Pacific University
- Host the Mayor's Forum on Sustainable Strategies for Business Success with the Economic Development Council and the Seattle Chamber of Commerce Resource Venture
- Complete economic development assessment and strategy to foster the growth of the sustainable building industry sector
- Provide the maritime industry a convenient guide to City and other local technical and financial assistance for resource conservation and pollution prevention
- Partner with PBS to produce a documentary and community action guide on urban ecosystem restoration
- Create a technical assistance program to support conservation in building projects in South Lake Union
- Work with biotech firms to pursue the design and construction of sustainable, high performance lab facilities
- Survey low income and ethnically diverse residents to determine their priority environmental issues



PROVIDE LEAN GREEN CITY GOVERNMENT

City government will lead by example with practices that save money and improve the health of people and the environment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reduced pollution and purchased more green vehicles for the City

- Reduced toxic and particulate emissions of the City's heavy duty diesel trucks by about 50% by installing emission control devices
- Began using only the cleanest diesel fuel available—a combination of ultra-low sulfur diesel and biodiesel
- Reduced climate changing carbon emissions by 77 tons through the use of biodiesel



Built green buildings and increased the health and resource efficiency of City operations

- Completed 4 green buildings — City Hall, SW Police Precinct, McCaw Performance Hall, Carkeek Park Environmental Learning Center
- Saved water and improved landscape health by installing computerized irrigation at 42 parks
- Implemented management systems at Seattle Transportation and Parks and Recreation to improve environmental performance
- Completed a 1,200 foot salmon spawning channel in the upper Skagit River which will provide for 500 spawners per year



- Made bus tickets available to City employees for work meetings
- Installed bicycle parking and showers at City Hall to encourage bicycle commuting

NEXT STEPS

- Complete 4 green buildings — Central Library, Yesler Community Center, Cedar River Treatment Facility—operations building, Highpoint Community Center
- Obtain space for the Sustainable Design Resource Center to promote sustainable practices in the built environment
- Increase pest and disease tolerance on certain sections on golf courses to reduce pesticide use
- Reduce purchase of products containing certain plastics, which have been linked to human health and environmental effects
- Increase City employee transit pass purchases by at least 8% to 2,700 passes
- Evaluate Proximate Commute potential to reduce commute trip by matching City employees to closer to home work sites

